

Message Text

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44

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INFO AMCONSUL CALI

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, CO

SUBJECT: EX PRESIDENT CARLOS LLERAS COMMENTS ON SECRETARYS ADDRESS

REF BOGOTA 2214

1. THE MARCH 15 ISSUE OF THE WEEKLY NUEVA FRONTERA PUBLISHED BY FORMER PRESIDENT CARLOS LLERAS RESTREPO, CARRIED THE FULL TEXT OF SECRETARY KISSINGERS MARCH 1 HOUSTON SPEECH ALONG WITH A LONG FAVORABLE COMMENTARY BY LLERAS HIMSELF. LLERAS ADMONISHED THE LATIN AMERICANS THEAT THEY "WOULD COMMIT A GRAVE ERROR IF THEY DID NOT EXAMINE ALL THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE SECRETARY OF STATES INITIATIVE..." LLERAS POINTED OUT THAT TIMING IS THE KEY TO SECRETARY KISSINGERS MODUS OPERANDI AND THAT THE SPEECH ALONG WITH THE APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM ROGERS AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR LATIN AMERICAN AFFAIRS AND THE PROPOSED TRIP THROUGH LATIN AMERICA BY THE SECRETARY AMOUNTED TO A COORDINATED AND CAREFULLY TIMED SHOW OF INTEREST IN LATIN AMERICA THAT SHOULD NOT BE IGNORED.

2. REVIEWING THE SPEECH POINT BY POINT, LLERAS FIRST COMMENTED ON THE TWO-PRONGED ISSUE OF RECOGNITION OF CUBA AND THE OAS. LLERAS PRAISED THE SECRETARY'S
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INSISTANCE ON FINDING A SOLUTION TO THE CUBAN QUESTION

WITHIN THE OAS AND CHIDED THE COLOMBIAN GOVERNMENT FOR OVERLOOKING COLOMBIA'S TRADITION OF HONORING INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS AND SIMPLY IMITATING OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES BY RECOGNIZING CUBA BEFORE THE SANCTIONS WERE LIFTED. ON THE CANAL ISSUE, LLERAS EMPHASIZED THAT THE CHOICE OF NETURALITY OR MILITARY PROTECTION FOR THE CANAL BY THE US WAS DIFFICULT, BUT IN ANY EVENT, COLOMBIA SHOULD TAKE AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN THE ISSUE SINCE TRANSIT THROUGHT THE CANAL HAS PROVENTO BE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF WESTERN COLOMBIA AND OT THE HEMISPHERE. ON TRADE PRE FERENCE LLERAS OBSERVED THAT THERE ARE DANGERS OF UNCERTAINTY DUE TO ESCAPE CLAUSES CONTAINED THEREIN AND THAT PRESENTLY COLOMBIA STANDS TO GAIN LITTLE, BUT LIBERTY OF ACCESS FOR TEN YEARS TO A MARKET SO IMPORTANT AS NORTH AMERICA IS VERY ATTRACTIVE"" LLERAS ENCOURAGED COLOMBIAN BUSINESS TO BEGIN INVESTIGATING THE POSSIBILITIES OF DEVELOPING INDUSTRIES WHICH COULD COMPETE UNDER THE PREFERENCE SYSTEM. LLERAS WELCOMED THE SECRETARYS STATE MENT ON ENCOURAGING TRANSNATIONAL COMPANIES TO OPERATE TO THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC BENEFIT OF HOST COUNTRIES, BUT LAMENTED THAT IT WAS "VAGUE" AND DD" NOT INDICATE IN WHAT MANNER THIS ENCOURAGEMENT WOULD BE GIVEN". HE POINTEDOUT THAT THERE ARE VITAL BENEFITS TO BE DERIVED FROM THE COMPANIES AND IT WOULD BE DANGEROUS TO REACT TO PURELY NATIONALISTIC POLITICAL TERMS. LLERAS LAUDED THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE IDB FROM CONGRESS. HE NOTED, "ASIDE FROM THE CONFERENCE OF QUITANDIHNA, I HAVE ALWAYS CONSIDERED THIS ENTITY (IDB) AS THE MOST POSITIVE VICTORY ATTAINED BY LATIN AMERICA IN THE FINANCIAL FIELD.

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